

drive up prices, harm our energy security, and threaten that of our allies. Even as gas prices rose month after month, the Biden administration did nothing. They didn't attempt a mid-course correction. They didn't open this topic up for debate. They just stayed the course.

Back in November, the Secretary of Energy was asked about increasing U.S. oil production. She literally laughed and said:

That is hilarious.

Well, it certainly isn't funny now. Gas prices are now averaging \$4.32 a gallon, and our allies are frantically trying to reduce their reliance on Russian oil and gas, which in many cases is their sole source.

President Biden has tried to pin these problems squarely on Russia and Vladimir Putin, but the American people are smart. They know the truth. They know that high prices predated Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and they know about the war being waged on domestic energy production by some of our colleagues across the aisle.

And they are smart enough to know that you can't believe President Biden when he says you can't do much about it because Russia is responsible.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:32 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion on Executive Calendar No. 718 be withdrawn and that following disposition of the Young nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 305, S.J. Res. 37, with Senator PAUL or his designee in control of 30 minutes and the majority leader in control of the remaining time until 5:30 p.m., and that at 5:30 p.m., all remaining time on the joint resolution be yielded back, the joint resolution be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

The cloture motion on the nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025, was withdrawn.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor for a, I hope, happy event to my colleague Senator RUBIO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

SUNSHINE PROTECTION ACT OF 2021

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, let me cut right to the chase here before I get into a statement.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 623) to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rubio substitute at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5000) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sunshine Protection Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. MAKING DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME PERMANENT.

(a) REPEAL OF TEMPORARY PERIOD FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.—Section 3 of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a) is hereby repealed.

(b) ADVANCEMENT OF STANDARD TIME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 1 of the Act of March 19, 1918 (commonly known as the "Calder Act") (15 U.S.C. 261), is amended—

(A) by striking "4 hours" and inserting "3 hours";

(B) by striking "5 hours" and inserting "4 hours";

(C) by striking "6 hours" and inserting "5 hours";

(D) by striking "7 hours" and inserting "6 hours";

(E) by striking "8 hours" and inserting "by 7 hours";

(F) by striking "9 hours" and inserting "8 hours";

(G) by striking "10 hours;" and inserting "9 hours;";

(H) by striking "11 hours" and inserting "10 hours"; and

(I) by striking "10 hours." and inserting "11 hours."

(2) STATE EXEMPTION.—Such section is further amended by—

(A) redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(B) inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) STANDARD TIME FOR CERTAIN STATES AND AREAS.—The standard time for a State that has exempted itself from the provisions of section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)), as in effect on the day before November 5, 2023, pursuant to such section or an area of a State that has exempted such area from such provisions pursuant to such section shall be, as such State considers appropriate—

"(1) the standard time for such State or area, as the case may be, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; or

"(2) the standard time for such State or area, as the case may be, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as it was in effect on the day before November 5, 2023."

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such section is further amended, in the second sentence, by striking "Except as provided in section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)), the" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (b),".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on November 5, 2023.

The bill (S. 623) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as the day goes on, I look forward to others who will be coming to the floor here in a moment. You will see it is an eclectic collection of Members of the U.S. Senate in favor of what we have just done here in the Senate, and that is to pass a bill to make daylight saving time permanent.

Just this past weekend, we all went through that biannual ritual of changing the clock back and forth and the disruption that comes with it. And one has to ask themselves after a while: Why do we keep doing it? Why are we doing this?

This really began back in 1918 as a practice that was supposed to save energy, and since then we have adjusted it.

Today, daylight saving time, which started out as 6 months, was extended to 8 months in 2005, clearly showing you what people's preference was. So we are doing this back-and-forth of clock-changing for about 16 weeks of standard time a year.

Now, I think the majority of the American people's preference is just to stop the back-and-forth changing. But beyond that, I think their preference is, certainly, at least based on today's vote and what we have heard, is to make daylight saving time permanent.

I will just tell you a couple of the reasons why I think that is important. There is some strong science behind it that is now showing and making people aware of the harm that clock-switching has. We see an increase in heart attacks and car accidents and pedestrian accidents in the week that follow the changes.

The benefits of daylight saving time have also been accounted for in the research; for example, reduced crime, as there is light later in the day. We have seen decreases in child obesity, a decrease in seasonal depression that many feel during standard time, and then the practical one and the one that I have witnessed with my own eyes.